

Statement on the Resignation of Donald L. Evans as Secretary of
Commerce
November 9, 2004

Don Evans is one of my most trusted friends and advisers. He has been a valuable member of my economic team. Don has worked to advance economic security and prosperity for all Americans. He has worked steadfastly to make sure America continues to be the best place in the world to do business.

To encourage job creation here at home, Don has worked closely with me to reduce taxes, open markets for American goods and services, and promote a level playing field abroad.

Don shares my belief that the promise of America means our best days lie ahead. Together, we have worked to make that a reality.

I thank Don for his outstanding service to our Nation and wish him and Susie all the best as they return home to Texas.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Evans's letter of resignation.

Statement on the Resignation of John Ashcroft as Attorney General
November 9, 2004

John Ashcroft has worked tirelessly to help make our country safer. During his 4 years at the Department of Justice, John has transformed the Department to make combating terrorism the top priority, including making sure our law enforcement officials have the tools they need to disrupt and prevent attacks. In doing so, he has made sure that the rights of Americans are respected and protected.

I applaud his efforts to prevent crime, vigorously enforce our civil rights laws, crack down on corporate wrongdoing, protect the rights of victims and those with

disabilities, reduce crimes committed with guns, and stop human trafficking. I appreciate his work to fight Internet pornography. I am grateful for his advice on judicial nominations and his efforts to ensure that my judicial nominees receive fair hearings and timely votes.

John has served our Nation with honor, distinction, and integrity. I appreciate his service and wish him and Janet all the best.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Attorney General Ashcroft's letter of resignation.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran November 9, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency declared by Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published

in the *Federal Register* on November 13, 2003 (68 *Fed. Reg.* 64489).

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, beyond November 14, 2004.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Following Discussions With North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Jakob Gijsbert de Hoop Scheffer and an Exchange With Reporters November 10, 2004

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Secretary General of NATO to the Oval Office. This is the first meeting I've had, since my reelection, with a leader from overseas. I'm proud you're the person, Secretary General, because, first of all, I've got a very close personal relationship. I've come to admire his leadership and his fortitude. And secondly, my Nation is committed to a strong and vibrant NATO.

NATO is playing a very constructive role in Afghanistan. Today we had a chance to revisit one of the great moments of modern history, when millions of people went to the polls to vote for a President in a country that had been ruled by the Taliban only

3 years ago, and we were rejoicing in the fact that the first voter was a 19-year-old woman. And NATO is playing a very active role in Afghanistan.

And NATO is playing a role in helping to train Iraqi citizens so that they can become the people that defend their country against those who are trying to stop freedom. And I want to thank you for that, Mr. Secretary General.

We talked about the need to make sure NATO is relevant, that NATO is constructed in a way that is not only effective but one that continues to foster free societies and democracy around the world.